

Mr. John Davis
20 East 10 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10003

4/15/88

Dear Mr. Davis,

Reur 4/12, I do not recall what I wrote you 3/29 but you are welcome to use whatever you'd like from the Hades Not Camelot Chapter of Post Mortem.

When I wrote that chapter I'd not been able to afford a decent copier. I had a costly, two-stage 3M machine that took a full minute or more per copy so I may not have kept the originals, using them in facsimile in the book. I don't recall whether I had any additional such records. I doubt it. However, if you'd like, I can ask Amy to search when she is here again. I expect her on another project.

I don't have any correspondence with RFK. Nor, for that matter, with any Kennedy. I never initiated any and none found any need to write me. I went to RFK's Senate office when I had copies of Whitewash II, got a cool reception from the receptionist and I let it go at that.

It is easy to believe, as you say you do, that "obby, like many others, was "hostage" to J. Edgar Hoover and the dirt he had on them. However, I don't believe it, as I explain.

Long before the time of the Kennedys, when I worked on the Hill and later for magazines, everyone knew or just took for granted that Hoover gathered and kept these dossiers. I don't now recall now I knew, but when I was a magazine correspondent I knew that the FBI photographed everyone who entered the USSR embassy from the National Geographic Building, then across the street. I don't know anyone this knowledge kept from going to the embassy when he had business there.

Back in the 1930s the joke was that if Hoover withdrew his financial support the Communist Party ^{would} go broke, he had that many members working for him and so large a proportion of its leaders.

FBI agents who'd had enough and planned to quit told others what the FBI did, including me in 1957 or 1958, about people's private lives.

So, I'm without doubt that Bobby, particularly after his legal work on the Hill, knew all about the FBI's snooping and compiling. If he'd had any fear at all he'd never have crossed swords with Hoover, as he did regularly. I've seen the FBI's versions. Moreover, as AG he had to know because Hoover sought his written consent for some of it, to cover his and the FBI's asses. They knew also that the FBI had dirt on JFK because the FBI told them. Believe me, everybody in Washington who had any political sophistication at all in Washington just assumed it if he didn't know.

Regardless of what Tony Summers says, I've never seen any indication at all that Hoover or anyone in the FBI sought to persuade Bobby to any solution to the JFK case. The Commission and some in the DJ did but nobody else. Bobby's detachment from it, which what you are interested in reports, can be attributed to other factors. One that ought be obvious is that he was parti pris. If he'd had anything at all to do with the investigation, the taint would never have vaporized and forever people who have said that a vindictive hand guided the inquiry. ...most of Bobby's fights with Hoover were through Hoover's liaison people, and if Bobby had ever feared any Hoover leaking he'd never have dared insist, over Hoover's violent objections, that Hoover's end of their direct phone line be, for the first and I think only time, ~~be~~ on Hoover's own desk. And from the stories I've heard. Bobby was not yet in his grave when Hoover had it removed to another office so no AG could have the guts to call him personally, only through a flunkie. So, if Hoover had the stuff to do it with and the desire there was nothing Bobby did to discourage him and much to encourage him. Besides, Hoover knew that everybody knew and he knew that if despite this they tangled with him they were not afraid and he had to wonder in each case if he'd get hurt himself. Best, "arold Weisberg.

Harold